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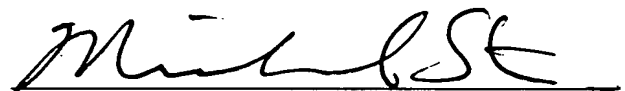
**PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116**

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Following up on a telephone conversation with Examiner Hewitt on November 20, 2003, and as discussed with the examiner, Applicant's undersigned attorney is withdrawing the present application from appeal (an RCE is being filed herewith) and is proposing to amend the independent claims as set forth above in an effort to advance the application towards allowance. Examiner Hewitt is respectfully asked to contact Applicant's attorney at 206 332-1384 to discuss the proposed amendments, which we believe clarify the claimed invention, and to hopefully reach agreement as to allowable subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 5, 2003



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